

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

October 15, 2015

Present:

**Carl Brunetti Mike Babbitt Rhonda Lacombe Maria Marcello
Paul Deutsch Mike O'Connell Bob Turner David Hartley
Bill DiBiasio**

Absent:

Bill McManus Felix Fernandes

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:36 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 10th were distributed for review.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to approve the minutes.

The minutes were accepted by a vote of 6-0 with Mike Babbitt, Maria Marcello and Dave Hartley abstaining as they were not present on September 10th.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Business

The Budget Board welcomed returning members Maria Marcello and David Hartley who will be filling the two vacant positions on the Board.

FY15 Municipal Budget

There were no updates or new information regarding the Municipal Budget.

Capital Projects

The Hot Potato Schoolhouse is finally being moved, but the roof had to be taken off due to some power lines, which was not anticipated.

The Budget Board has not heard any more information regarding the consolidation of fire districts, but there have been talks that a merger may occur, especially between Saylesville and Lonsdale.

The Lonsdale Department would have to surrender their charter and pay down their pension debt and loan on the building. They are currently paying \$11,500 per month for Saylesville to take over while they are shut down and going over the details of their finances.

There had been some issues with their Treasurer which are still under investigation.

The Budget Board would like copies of any minutes that have been taken at any of the meetings regarding the consolidation.

The Budget Board discussed whether the schools should be entering

into the rental of Ferguson Field to outside organizations, which School Committee Member John Lafleur is in charge of.

It was discussed that the field should first go to school organizations, then other Town organizations, and then if there is availability the outside organizations would get last priority.

There would also be added expenses such as a janitor and maintenance, which things like sponsored signage could help offset.

The field is reportedly already being rented out, and the Budget Board wanted to know where those collected fees were going in the Budget and what the rules of rental are.

Different Approach to FY2017 budget

The Budget Board discussed reviewing the Budget on more of a macro basis rather than micro for the coming year.

The Budget Board discussed getting a copy of the financial impact statement relating to the newly settled certified staff contracts, and discussed the trend of decreased enrollment and increased FTE's.

It was noted that when the Town begins to look at building a new High School, they should be looking at the number of projected students and not historical enrollment.

The Superintendent had noted that the 3 new Pre-K teachers were put on because enrollment had increased and some charter school students had been brought back into the school system.

The Budget Board would like a count per classroom and a total staff

count from the Superintendent.

Status of Recycling Conversion

The bids that came in were not in line with what was originally budgeted, as there were more residents and pickup locations than originally anticipated.

Nomination and Election of Budget Board Officers

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to open nominations for Budget Board Officers.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that Carl Brunetti be Budget Board Chair.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to close nominations for Budget Board Chair.

Carl Brunetti was elected Budget Board Chair by unanimous vote.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, that Bill DiBiasio be Budget Board Vice Chair.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to close nominations for Budget Board Vice Chair.

Bill DiBiasio was elected Budget Board Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that Rhonda Lacombe be Budget Board Corresponding Secretary.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to close nominations for Budget Board Corresponding Secretary.

Rhonda Lacombe was elected Budget Board Corresponding Secretary by unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the Budget Board will be on Thursday, January 7, 2016.

Public Comment

Cameron Deutsch, a High School student, questioned the rental of Ferguson Field.

It was noted that if the field was rented out, some of those fees collected would go into a fund for the renovation of the synthetic turf as needed.

It would be up to the Athletic Director to coordinate use of the field.

There are no major repairs planned to the High School building because it is anticipated that there will be a new campus built within a few years.

It will meet all air quality codes, but will not be air conditioned.

Also discussed was the merger of the Fire Districts, which would mean Lonsdale would still have a Rescue Station, but that fire would be sourced out through Saylesville.

There are no plans to lay off those workers, however.

The Budget Board asked Mr. Deutsch whether the Chromebooks that

the schools purchased are being used in the classrooms in his experience.

He noted that he has seen that many teachers do not use them or find them helpful.

Adjourn

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.